

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL NICE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1292

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 023

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS NICE 126

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : EAIR, FR, US

SUBJECT : CIVAIR : CONCORDE PROTESTS

REF : NICE 122

1. THE DEAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DEPUTY VIRGILE BAREL (COMMUNIST), VISITED THE CONSULATE MARCH 11, 1977, TO FORMALLY PROTEST AGAINST QUOTE US NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE FRENCH/BRITISH CONCORDE UNQUOTE. BAREL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO GENERAL COUNCILMEN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ALPES MARITIMES, MR LOUIS BROCH (P.C.) AND MR CHARLES CARESSA (P.C.): A REPRESENTATIVE WORKER FROM THE LOCAL AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY, SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE AEROSPATIALE (S.N.I.A.S.) AT LA BOCCA (CANNES) AS WELL AS A JOURNALIST FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNIST WEEKLY "LE PATRIOTE COTE D'AZUR".

2. THE HALF-HOUR MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER WAS HELD IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE DURING WHICH TIME THE NOW-FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS WERE BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DELEGATION.

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THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE DIFFICULTY THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC HAS HAD IN UNDERSTANDING THE SEPARATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITY IN THE U.S. MR BAREL WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WERE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIONS TO THE CONCORDE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT, EVEN IN FRANCE, THE SAME GENERAL CONCERN EXISTS WITH REGARD TO LOCAL PROJECTS. IN GENERAL,

DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED SAME LINES AS THOSE REPORTED PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTEL.

3. THE GROUP EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE FRENCH/BRITISH AND AMERICAN TECHNICIANS ARE PRESENTLY MEETING IN NEW YORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WAYS AND MEANS TO REDUCE CONCORDE'S NOISE FACTOR. THE GROUP EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT SIMILAR MEETINGS HAD NOT BEEN HELD IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

4. BEFORE LEAVING THE CONSULATE, THE S.N.I.A.S. (SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE AEROSPATIALE) REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTED CONSUL WITH A PETITION, SIGNED BY 1200 EMPLOYEES OF S.N.I.A.S. THE PETITION/DECLARATION, ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY CELL AT S.N.I.A.S. , STATES THAT THE PRESENT FRENCH GOVERNMENT, BY SERVING THE DASSAULT TRUST ON ONE SIDE AND AMERICAN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES ON THE OTHER, IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INADMISSIBLE VETO OF LANDING RIGHTS FOR THE CONCORDE IN NEW YORK CITY. THE PETITION ALSO CONTAINS REFERENCE TO THE FRENCH AIRBUS, THE ONLY AIRCRAFT OF ITS KIND IN ITS CATEGORY, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN REFUSED BY THE UNITED STATES. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING AGAINST THIS ECONOMIC BOYCOTT, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS CAPITULATED. THE DECLARATION CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT, AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT OF GISCARD AND BARRE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS AT S.N.I.A.S. DURING 1977.

5. PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATION, GENERAL COUNSELOR, CHARLES CARESSA, STATED THAT HE WISHED TO REMIND THE CONSULATE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT A NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE PORT AUTHORITY WILL CERTAINLY RESULT IN VIOLENT LOCAL REACTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. HE PREDICTED THAT SUCH REACTION WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF REFUSAL OF LANDING RIGHTS AND SERVICES TO U.S. AIRCRAFT AT THE NICE COTE D'AZUR AIRPORT - THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT AIRPORT IN FRANCE.

MURPHY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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